

Message Text

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SUBJ: POWER SHORTAGE FORCES FURTHER CUTS IN ENERGY CONSUMPTION

REFS: BELGRADE 0708 ZAGREB 0147

SUMMARY: CONTINUING POWER SHORTAGES IN MOST OF YUGOSLAVIA
FORCE FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRIC ENERGY,
WHICH MAY REQUIRE FURTHER LOCALIZED PRODUCTION CUTS, ESPECIALLY
IN MACEDONIA AND MONTENEGRO WHICH ARE MOST SEVERELY AFFECTED.
END SUMMARY.

1. MOST REGIONS OF YUGOSLAVIA ARE REQUIRING FURTHER REDUCTIONS
IN THE USE OF ELECTRIC POWER AFTER APPEALS EARLIER IN THE
YEAR FOR VOLUNTARY CUTS ON PARTS OF HOUSEHOLDS AND INDUSTRY
WERE GENERALLY INEFFECTIVE ESPECIALLY OUTSIDE OF SERBIA.
MAGNITUDE OF CUTS VARIES FROM REGION TO REGION AND DAY TO DAY
DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF POWER PLANTS DOWN FOR REPAIR. BUT
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ACCORDING TO BORBA ON SOME DAYS, DOMESTIC INDUSTRY CAN SUPPLY

ONLY 82 MILLION KWH OF DAILY DEMAND OF 120-130 MILLION KWH, WITH IMPORTS OF ELECTRICITY INCREASING SUPPLY SOMEWHAT.

2. MONTENEGRO AND MACEDONIA WITH REPORTED SHORT-FALLS OF 50 AND 38 PERCENTS RESPECTIVELY, ARE MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED. MONTENEGRO DEFICIT HAS CAUSED TITOGRAAD ALUMINUM WORKS TO WITHDRAW 29 ELECTROLYTIC CELLS FROM OPERATION, AND ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS PLANT OFFICIALS CLAIM NORMAL PRODUCTION MAY NOT BE RESUMED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. MACEDONIA IS REPORTEDLY INTRODUCING MEASURES TO REDUCE OVERALL CONSUMPTION BY AT LEAST 30 PERCENT, WHICH MAY WELL AFFECT PRODUCTION IN MAJOR ENTERPRISES INCLUDING SKOPJE STEELWORKS AND JUGOHROM.

3. IN REST OF COUNTRY IMPLICATIONS OF CURRENT POWER CUTS FOR PRODUCTION DO NOT APPEAR AS SEVERE AS IN MACEDONIA AND MONTENEGRO; IN SERBIA FOR EXAMPLE CUTS ARE AT LEVEL OF NUISANCE TO HOUSEHOLDS, BUT CROATIA MAY BE SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED (SEE REFTTEL) AND IF SITUATION DOES NOT IMPROVE, ENERGY SHORTAGE COULD LIMIT OVERALL YUGOSLAV INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN NEXT MONTHS.

4. COMMENT: RECENT STATISTICS INDICATE YUGOSLAVIA HAS POWER DEFICIT, EVEN UNDER OPTIMAL CONDITIONS, DUE DELAYS COMPLETION NEW POWER PLANTS IN LAST TWO YEARS AT SAME TIME NEW INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY WAS COMING ON STREAM. TANJUG REPORTS CZECHOSLOVAK INDUSTRY HAS FAILED TO DELIVER EQUIPMENT FOR FOUR MAJOR POWER PLANTS ON SCHEDULE, BUT LOCAL ENTERPRISES ARE ALSO BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR LAGS IN COMPLETION OF NEW CAPACITY. A PROLONGED DRY SPELL, WHICH HAS REDUCED MANY ACCUMULATION LAKES OF HYDROELECTRIC STATIONS BELOW ONE-THIRD CAPACITY AND BREAK-DOWN IN KEY THERMOELECTRIC PLANTS HAVE EXACERBATED BASIC DEFICIT. COAL DELIVERIES TO THERMAL PLANTS ALSO HAVE BEEN BELOW REQUIRED LEVELS. YUGOSLAVS HAVE INCREASED IMPORTS OF ELECTRICITY FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND REPORTEDLY GONE TO SEVENDAY, FOUR-SHIFT WORK IN COAL MINES IN EFFORT INCREASE SUPPLIES. HOWEVER, BOTH MEASURES-EVEN IF SUCCESSFUL-WILL PROVIDE ONLY SMALL RELIEF. MORE IMPORTANT ARE EFFORTS TO REPAIR PLANTS, PREVENT FURTHER BREAKDOWNS, AND ACCELERATE CONSTRUCTION OF PARTIALLY COMPLETED INSTALLATIONS. IN NEXT DAYS AND WEEKS WEATHER WILL BE KEY VARIABLE. PRECIPITATION WOULD ALLOW HYDROELECTRIC PLANTS TO STEP UP OPERATION, WHILE CONTINUED DROUGHT WOULD FURTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INCAPACITATE THEM. ENERGY NEEDS FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN WELL-STUDIED AND PLANNED BY YUGOSLAVS, BUT IN ADDITION TO DELAYS IN REACHING AGREEMENTS AND IN MEETING CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULES, FUNDAMENTAL WEAKNESS YUGOSLAV PLANS IS UNAVAILABILITY SUFFICIENT CAPITAL, ESTIMATED IN PRESS AT 63 BILLION DINARS AT 1973 PRICES OVER FIVE YEARS, TO FINANCE AMBITIOUS INVESTMENT PROJECTS.
TOON

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